

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2, 5, 6, 9, 12-19 and 30-31 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 20-28 have been canceled. New claims 30-31 has been added.

Claims 2, 5, 6, 9, 13, 14, 16, 17 and 29 have been allowed.

The only pending claims not allowed are claims 12, 15, 18 -19 and new claims 30-31.

Claims 12, 30, 31: Discrete Electrodes. These claims cover the embodiment in Figs. 1 and 5A - 5C, showing discrete electrodes. As set forth in the Summary, on page 2, lines 5-7 of the application, these electrodes are unlike a touchpad, which has an array of electrodes beneath the touch pad covering. The embodiments show between 2 and 6 electrodes in a vertical column.

Claim 12 was rejected on the basis of Mabuth (4,550,221), which shows a touchpad array of electrodes. Claim 12 has been amended to clarify that the electrodes are not part of a 2-dimensional array, but rather are a single column of discrete electrodes. This is not shown by Mabuth, and is not obvious.

Claim 30 sets forth that no more than 6 electrodes are used, further distinguishing Mabuth, which shows many more than 6 electrodes.

Claim 31 sets forth that no more than 2 electrodes are used, further distinguishing Mabuth, which shows many more than 2 electrodes.

Claim 15: Continuous Scrolling. Claim 15 has been amended to clarify that the scrolling signal it sends when the finger stops moving is a signal which causes scrolling to continue, not a signal which identifies the particular scrolled position. Claim 15 was rejected on the basis of Stephan (5,748,185), which shows the generation of a packet as long as the finger is still on the touchpad. However, the packets sent identify the x,y position (see description of Fig. 4 in col. 8). When the finger stops, the current x, y position continues to be sent. There is nothing in Stephan to suggest sending a packet with the next and subsequent y positions after the finger stops, which is the effect of the present invention as set forth in claim 15. Even though the finger has stopped moving, the scrolling continues on the display, rather than remaining at the

spot where the finger stopped as in Stephan. Accordingly, as amended, claim 15 is believed to distinguish the cited art and be non-obvious.

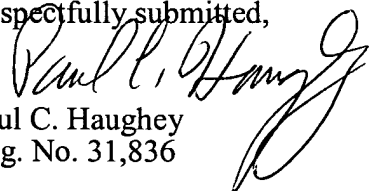
Claims 18-19, Scrolling Sound generation. Claim 18 has been amended to further set forth that "click sounds are generated when said scrolling signal causes a document scroll by at least one line." The cited Vaghefi (6,429,851) patent only generally mentions emitting sounds corresponding to the animal shape of the mouse due to normal mouse button operation. It is not obvious to substitute a roller clicking sound for an animal sound, as these are done for different purposes. The animal sounds of Vaghefi are produced to entertain a child. Presumably, if used with a normal scroll wheel, the normal scroll wheel would have a ratchet built in that would mechanically produce clicking sounds along with tactile feedback to the child, with the animal noise being separately produced. There would be no reason to substitute a clicking sound. It is only with the use of the present invention, eliminating the mechanical elements for a solid state roller, that brings in the desirability for sound feedback. Nothing in Vaghefi or the other prior art suggests this.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,


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